



NO WAR ON IRAN

Falling oil profits drive U.S. provocations

By Bill Dores

"I was the CIA director. We lied, we cheated, we stole. ... We had entire training courses." That's what Trump regime Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told students at Texas A&M University on April 15.

On June 14, Pompeo told reporters that "Iran is responsible for the attacks that occurred in the Gulf of Oman today." On June 16 he told Fox News, "There's no doubt. The intelligence community has lots of data, lots of evidence." He didn't give any.

The Trump regime is desperately escalating confrontation with Iran. Why? The answer can be found in the headlines.

Not the headlines parroting Washington's claim that Iran attacked tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The answer is in the headlines that bankers and CEOs worry about.

Headlines like these:

"Oil Prices Are Falling Because Fears of a Glut in Supplies Are Growing," Barron's, May 22.

"Oil Prices Tumble, U.S. Crude Slides Under \$60, as Trade Wars Clip Global Demand," The Street, May 23.

"Gas Prices Could Fall Below \$2 For Many Americans," CNN Business, June 12.

On June 13, Barron's financial weekly wrote, "Oil Prices Keep Falling, Something's Got to Give."

Something did. Later that day, explosions disabled two tankers in the Gulf of Oman. Within hours, Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed Iran. On June 18, the Israeli press reported the U.S. was preparing air strikes on Iran.

This is the second attack reported in the Gulf region since May 7, when the Pentagon announced a military buildup there. At the request of the U.S. Central Command, British units also deployed to the Gulf. Among them were members of the Special Boat Service, which specializes in covert operations at sea.

Japan disputes U.S. version

One of the tankers attacked was Japanese-owned, one Norwegian. Both carried "Japan-related" cargo, according to Japan's Foreign Trade Ministry. The attacks happened while Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in Tehran trying to defuse tension between Iran and the U.S.

Free Chelsea Manning!

Just seven days after her release, heroic transgender activist and military whistleblower Chelsea Manning was jailed again on May 15 in Virginia for refusing to testify before a second grand jury in the WikiLeaks case. Manning could be jailed for up to 18 months. The judge also imposed Draconian fines for every day past 30 that she refuses to testify.

Manning declared, "I would rather starve to death than change my principles." The government knows she will not cooperate with their biased grand jury. There is no reason to keep her in jail, except as continued punishment for daring to expose U.S. war crimes.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee urges you to join the fight to free Chelsea Manning and all prisoners of the U.S. empire. You can help her continue to resist by writing letters of support to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning, A0181426, William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, 2001 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. Follow @ResistsChelsea on Twitter for updates. [📧](#)



Both the crew and the owner of the damaged Japanese ship, the Kokuka Out-rageous, contradict the Trump regime's version of the attack. They say their ship was hit by a flying missile,

not underwater mines as the U.S. claims. Japanese and European Union officials have said they are not ready to accept the U.S. version of events.

Japan and the EU have good reason to fear a U.S. attack on Iran. So do the majority of the world's people, who live in oil and gas-importing countries. So do working-class and oppressed people in the United States. Some in the U.S. ruling class fear it as well.

The Arab-Persian Gulf holds 55 percent of the world's known oil reserves. Thirty-five percent of the world's seaborne oil shipments come from there. A regional war could push the price of oil up to \$200 a barrel, analysts say. Some say more.

All that money wouldn't go up in smoke. It would be a massive transfer of wealth into the vaults of U.S. oil companies and banks and hedge funds that speculate on oil. For the trillion-dollar U.S. fracking industry — and the big banks that finance it — this could be a lifesaver. Fracking companies are struggling to keep prices over the cost of production. Hundreds of billions in investments are at risk.

Pompeo, Bolton and the fracking Kochs

The Koch brothers, Charles and David, are big investors in the U.S. fracking industry. Before he was hired by the Trump regime, first as CIA director, then secretary of state, Mike Pompeo was called "the congressman from Koch." He got \$1.1 million in donations from the oil and gas industry during his six years in Congress. Over a third, \$375,000, came from Koch Industries.

Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, was a fellow at the Koch-funded American Free Enterprise Institute. As an undersecretary of state for the George W. Bush regime, he helped fabricate "evidence" to justify the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Sen. Tom Cotton, who is leading the charge against Iran in the Senate, has gotten over \$1 million from oil and gas interests during his six years on the Hill.

The fracking industry is much bigger than the "new money" robber barons around Trump. "Chevron, ExxonMobil Tighten Their Grip on Fracking," the Wall Street Journal reported on March 5. Those oil majors control much of Saudi Arabia's output as well. Four giant banks, JPMorganChase, Wells Fargo, Citibank and Bank of America, have poured over half a trillion dollars into the industry.

The hydraulic fracturing — fracking — technology in use today was first tested in June 1998. In August of that year, the collapse of the Russian ruble dropped oil prices to \$11 a barrel. That was despite the murderous sanctions and deadly bombing of Iraq by the U.S. It took the energy-price bubble created by the 2003 U.S. invasion and devastation of Iraq to make fracking profitable.

The "fracking revolution" is slowly destroying North America's water supply. But it has made the U.S. the world's top oil and gas producer. It is central to the Trump regime's proclaimed goal of "U.S. energy dominance." It is the product of three decades of war, sanctions and covert operations, hundreds of thousands of deaths and nearly six trillion dollars spent on war. It can only be sustained by more war and destruction. Which is what we will get unless we build a people's movement that can turn things around. [📧](#)

- ▶ The economy ▶ Bernie Sanders
- ▶ Janet Africa, Janine Africa Free
- ▶ Tiananmen Square narrative
- ▶ Dos-Espíritus
- ▶ Stonewall: Reclaim PRIDE

JUNETEENTH

A hearing on reparations

On Juneteenth, June 19 Emancipation Day, a hearing was held by Congress on a proposal to study reparations for slavery in the U.S.

Among those testifying was writer Ta-Nehisi Coates. Coates' essay, "The Case for Reparations," made reparations a mainstream issue.

Coates responded directly to Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell's dismissive grumble that "no one alive" is responsible:

"It is tempting to divorce this modern campaign of terror, of plunder, from enslavement, but the logic of enslavement, of white supremacy, respects no such borders. ...

"We grant that Mr. McConnell was not alive for Appomattox. But he was alive for the electrocution of George Stinney. He was alive for the blinding of Isaac Woodard. ...

"McConnell cited civil-rights legislation yesterday, as well he should, because he was alive to witness the harassment, jailing, and betrayal of those responsible for that legislation by a government sworn to protect them. He was alive for the redlining of Chicago and the looting of Black homeowners of some \$4 billion. Victims of that plunder are very much alive today."

SWITZERLAND

500,000 women strike

On June 14, hundreds of thousands of women went on strike throughout Switzerland. While many believe that Switzerland is a progressive country, as far as women's rights are concerned, Switzerland is a drastic example of women's oppression.

The right for women to vote has only existed since 1971. Until 2004, marital rape wasn't a criminal offense. Maternity protection has only been in place since 2006, but still only lasts 14 weeks.

In addition, a shocking number of women have experienced sexual violence, assaults, harassment and psychological violence. In Switzerland, a femicide occurs every two weeks.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

'Pipeline will not be built'

19 June 2019, Unceded Coast Salish Territory, (Vancouver, BC) — Pipeline opponents are promising resistance to the Trans Mountain pipeline and tanker project, in response to Prime Minister Trudeau and his cabinet's approval of the project earlier today.

"No matter who approves it, this pipeline will not be built," said Will George, a leader of Protect The Inlet and community member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation whose territory encompasses the tanker terminal. George and thousands of supporters with Protect The Inlet led public resistance to Kinder Morgan, causing mass arrests for six months last year outside Trans Mountain facilities. The Indigenous-led opposition has been ramping up recruitment for more resistance in anticipation of today's approval with the launch of www.stop-transmountainpipeline.org. [📧](#)



Signs of a deepening capitalist crisis

By Lallan Schoenstein

Economic indicators reported in the business pages are grim, the outcome of a long global depression. In March, this news was characterized by Larry Summers, former U.S. Treasury secretary and professor at Harvard University, as stagnation of the world's capitalist system.

On June 4, Reuters reported that one U.S. manufacturing index hit the lowest level since October 2016. In May, an index of factory employment was shown to have fallen 11 percent since October 2017.

Aside from a small bump in after-tax profits, induced by Trump's tax cuts for the rich and the big corporations, the economy has not recovered since the Great Recession of 2007-2009. According to economist Alan Freeman, "economic growth of the industrialized North has fallen continuously, with only brief and limited interruptions, since at least the early 1960s."

Most alarming is the data reported by the World Bank. In areas dominated by the capitalist economy, the poverty level among people has worsened drastically since 1981, increasing from 3.2 billion to 4.2 billion. Inequality of wealth and income in these economies is widening; the gap between rich and poor countries is widening as well.

An outstanding statistical feature of capitalism in the current period is that it is failing to develop the technology and labor necessary to expand the output of goods and services that human society needs or wants. As measured by gross national product (GNP), the system based on competition and expansion for profit is finding it more and more difficult to expand.

Try to disguise class struggle

Economic policies propounded by capitalist politicians, their academic advisers and the media are based on models like Keynesianism, and more recently, Modern Monetary Theory (MMT). These models seek to disguise the antagonistic, profit-driven relationship between corporate bosses and workers.

Because these economic models are not founded in reality, their policies entail constant adjustments to try to "correct" an unstable capitalist system wracked by inherent crises.

In "Value, Price and Profit," Karl Marx laid bare the real relationship of exploiter and exploited in a scientific analysis of economic relations:

"We find on the market a set of buyers, possessed of land, machinery, raw materials and the means of subsistence, all of them save land in its crude state, the products of labor; and on the other hand, a set of sellers who have nothing to sell except their laboring power, their working arms and brains. ... One set buys continually in order to make a profit and enrich themselves, while the other set continually sells in order to earn their livelihood." Marx comments that this ought to be called the "original expropriation."

And again, in Volume One of Capital: "Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation, at the opposite pole."

Gov't stimulus fails to revive capitalism

The U.S. economy was revived after the Great Depression of the 1930s, first by military spending on World War II, and then as it gained domination over the rebuilding of post-war world markets.

The 21st century "Endless War" proclaimed by the George W. Bush administration no longer has the same ability to stimulate the economy. The enormous productive resources absorbed by the military-industrial complex are used solely for destruction and as such can't return real value to the economy.

Sanctions, like a medieval siege meant to starve the population into submission, are another cruel weapon in the current U.S. arsenal of war. The government hopes that sanctions against countries like Venezuela will destroy all resistance to the plunder of their resources. Actually, it has been found that sanctions solidify resistance and hatred of the U.S. rulers.

Donald Trump's campaign promises to revive the economy by providing jobs ring hollow. The high employment rate he touts is based entirely on contingent, low-paying, temporary and part-time jobs. In the U.S., 17 percent of workers are only employed part time — one-third more than in the 1960s.

Many workers have been forced to join the "self-employed" gig economy. Others have fallen out of the job market because they've given up looking for work.

Threat of tariffs

Many pundits see Trump's trade war on China and Mexico as a catastrophic threat to a U.S. economy already tottering on the edge.

Manufacturers, like those producing cars, depend on importing parts from Mexico and China. Tariffs could sound a death knell on high-tech companies like car maker Tesla. China is its second-largest market, the New York Times reported June 3.

The Federal Reserve has tried to offset the potential damage caused

by tariffs with a promise to cut interest rates. Some see this incentive as support for Trump's tariffs. The Fed already dropped a plan to raise interest rates in January as the economy weakened. Interest rates are so low now that a new cut would be giving away money to corporations.

This economic stimulus by the government is not improving conditions for the working class because corporations are not investing in providing jobs with a decent rate of pay, job training or new equipment. Rather, they are hoarding funds or investing in superexploitative, low-paying jobs.

Corporations are finding that they can't improve profits simply by replacing workers with robots and automation. As Marx showed, only human labor time can determine the value of what is produced. Profits are created by the exploitation of human labor.

In the eyes of the financial markets, the current lack of inflation is another dangerous indicator. Traditionally, a high employment rate coincides with inflation. The current job market of low-paying, part-time and temporary jobs appears to be causing deflation.

Proponents of Modern Monetary Theory, many of them supporting the "Green New Deal," call for the government to print more money as a way of stimulating the economy. In feudal times this was referred to as "clipping the coin" — a practice of shaving coins to mint more of them. It doesn't actually create more value.

The decaying capitalist system can't be reformed or revived. It's an outmoded system that is depending on harsher exploitation and war to sustain itself — and conditions for the working class are steadily declining. 📌

Why they want to stop Bernie

By Stephen Millies

The capitalist media have crowned Joe Biden as the likely candidate to win the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. This isn't just because the former vice president is leading in the early public opinion polls.

Biden was brought into the race to stop Bernie Sanders. The billionaire class can't tolerate someone calling themselves a socialist going to the White House. The wealthy and powerful consider it a threat to their system that millions of people in the U.S., including fifty percent of youth, have a favorable opinion of socialism.

Leading the charge against Sanders are so-called liberal publications like the Washington Post, which on May 3 attacked Sanders for taking a 1988 honeymoon trip to what was then the Soviet Union. Fox News gleefully used the Post's article to condemn the Vermont senator's "infamous honeymoon."

On Feb. 20, Slate claimed that "Sanders has a soft spot for Latin American strongmen" because he praised Cuban health care and didn't immediately condemn Venezuela's elected president, Nicolás Maduro.

Four years before, CNN's Anderson Cooper had also red baited Bernie Sanders about his honeymoon.

It isn't just about jobs

Underhanded support from the Democratic National Committee — as exposed by WikiLeaks — and a massive bankroll paved the way for Hillary Clinton to win the presidential nomination in 2016. But that wasn't the whole story.

How did Hillary Clinton get to Flint, Mich., before Bernie Sanders did?

To Sanders, progressive politics, even "socialist politics," consists of raising economic issues like jobs, health care and free education. These are all good things, and who needs them more than the over 110 million Black, Latinx, Indigenous and Asian/Pacific Islander people in the U.S.?

But the lead poisoning of Black and some white children in Flint didn't seem like a burning political issue to Sanders, at least at first. Otherwise, he would have showed up in Flint well before Clinton did.

Sanders toured the Sandtown neighborhood in Baltimore where Freddie Grey Jr. was arrested by police and given a "rough ride," resulting in Grey's death. At the Dec. 8, 2015, news conference that followed,



PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Baltimore protests police killing of Freddie Grey, May 2015.

Sanders said that it "makes a lot more sense to me to be getting kids jobs than hanging out on street corners and seeing them end up in jail."

Young people need jobs and Sanders did call for an end to mass incarceration and federal investigations of all police killings. But Freddie Grey wasn't killed because he was jobless. He was killed because he was a Black youth.

What Sanders needed to do was to denounce police terrorism.

Socialists must fight racism

In 2016, Sanders called reparations for the African Holocaust "devisive."

This wasn't just repulsive; it cost Sanders the votes of many African Americans.

This is an old story in the U.S. socialist movement: If we can just avoid "divisive issues" like reparations, we can unite Black (and other oppressed) voters with white voters on economic issues.

But these "divisive issues" can't be avoided. Socialists have to fight for justice.

It's hopeful that Sanders is now supporting a bill to create a reparations study commission.

Bernie Sanders supports many good things, like Medicare For All. But he isn't calling for a revolution. Revolutionary socialists know that to stop capitalism from cooking the earth we need to overthrow this rotten system. Wall Street and its military machine have to be smashed.

In order to organize this revolution, socialists need to appeal to Sanders' supporters to stop any U.S. war against Venezuela and Iran. And to join the struggle to free U.S. political prisoners like Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal and Chelsea Manning. 📌

MOVE 9's Janine Africa and Janet Africa released at last

By Gloria Verdieu

After 41 years, all the MOVE 9 women are liberated, no longer incarcerated, finally released! Janet Holloway Africa and Janine Phillips Africa, the longest-held women political prisoners in the U.S., were freed on May 25, 2019.

As the news spreads throughout the world, we must remember that these courageous political prisoners might have been freed years earlier if they had agreed to renounce the MOVE Organization and their deeply held revolutionary political and religious beliefs. But they held fast.

On the morning of Aug. 8, 1978, hundreds of Philadelphia cops and officials staged an attack on the MOVE Organization. Nine MOVE members — five men and four women — were arrested, convicted of murder and sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison over the death of a cop who actually died as a result of “friendly fire.”

Judge Edwin Malmed stated for the record that he had sentenced each of them to the same amount of time in prison because the MOVE members, all of them Black revolutionaries, had declared “we are a family” and remained loyal to their beliefs.

For years, the Pennsylvania Parole Board denied the MOVE 9 parole, but refused to admit that the actual

condition of parole was that these committed members denounce and leave the MOVE Organization.

Two members of the MOVE 9 — Merle Africa and Phil Africa — died while incarcerated, both under suspicious circumstances. Debbie Simms Africa was released on June 16, 2018, followed by Mike Africa on October 23, 2018.

At a “Welcome Home” news conference for Janet and Janine on May 30, Ramona Africa, the only adult survivor of the 1985 police bombing of the MOVE house, stated: “We’re a strong family that this system has worked hard to break up. Every one of them could have been out in half the time if we had compromised with this system, but nothing will make us compromise our commitment to John Africa and his teachings.”

‘We are fighting for everybody’

Pam Africa, MOVE member and coordinator of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, said at the news conference: “A lot of people say they are so glad that our sisters are free. Our sisters went in there free with the teaching of John Africa. Teaching in there for 41 years. ... All my sisters needed was to be released.”

MOVE members were not afraid to speak the truth on the inside and



SLL PHOTO

talking about it because we know how important that is.

“We are out here fighting for everybody, whether you are white, Black, Chinese. ... We know this system is on pins and needles because we are coming out!”

The U.S. locks up more people than any other country in the world. Over 2.2 million people are in prisons, close to 3,000 on death row, and thousands upon thousands are in local jails because of the failed, racist criminal justice system.

How significant it is that these courageous wom-

en were released and reunited with their family on African Liberation Day in 2019, the year that marks 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown, Va.

Welcome home MOVE 9 sisters! We will continue to fight with you until the remaining MOVE 9 members are released. Free all political prisoners, prisoners of conscience and prisoners of war.

Listen to Mumia Abu-Jamal’s commentary, “MOVE Women: Janet and Janine Africa Free at Last” at Prison Radio. [📺](#)

they continue to speak truth on the outside. Their number one priority is to work for the release of their remaining incarcerated members: Chuck Africa and Delbert Africa..

Janine Africa declared: “For 41 years, they have tried to beat us down. They have tried to take our health. They have tried everything to stop us because they couldn’t stop us no other way.

“We have a family that is so strong and supportive. They had our backs and we rode on their strength and that made us strong. ... We can’t stop

Capitalist lies on China exposed: The evolving Tiananmen Square narrative

By John Parker

Yes, a picture is worth a thousand words. But what happens when the words that the pictures are shouting out do not fit their intended use? In that case, the narrator has to supply the words, urging, “Don’t believe your lying eyes.”

An excellent example comes from the corporate media narrative of the incidents that occurred in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Once again the corporate media are dusting off their anti-communist campaign of blatant lies and misinformation to sell the U.S. government’s line about supposed massacres carried out by the Chinese Communist Party 30 years ago.

Since 1989, however, irrefutable evidence — from Wikileaks documents to eyewitness reports — has exposed the blatant falsehoods promoted as gospel truth by Western capitalist governments and their loyal media.

The fact is that if you scour the mainstream media, you can find not one photo or video of anyone shot or trampled by a tank in Tiananmen Square.

Fabrications exposed, narrative changes

Journalists who helped perpetuate the massacre myth began confessing in 2009. Two years later, Wikileaks exposed cables showing the U.S. government, just a few days after June 4, 1989, had evidence of the fabrication. So the narrative began to evolve.

However, up until that point — for a period of 20 years! — the story of the “massacre in Tiananmen Square” was carried as one unified declaration of truth coming from the New York Times, CNN, the Washington Post, the BBC and other Western corporate media — and, unfortunately, repeated by folks on the left who shouldn’t have been so gullible.

Once the truth began leaking out, some journalists, feeling the weight of what was finally being exposed, started admitting that they had lied or withheld the facts about Tiananmen Square.

Here’s one such admission, reported on CBSNews.com on June 4, 2009, from Richard Roth. In 1989, Roth was the CBS News correspondent covering events in Beijing on June 3 and 4. He had been briefed by anchor Dan Rather about the approved narrative of events at Tiananmen Square before Rather went on to broadcast these fabrications to the world:

“Dawn was just breaking. There were hundreds of troops in the square, many sitting cross-legged on the pavement in long curving ranks, some cleaning up debris. There were some tanks and armored personnel carriers. But we saw no bodies, injured people, ambulances or medical personnel — in short, nothing to even suggest, let alone prove, that a ‘massacre’ had recently occurred in that place.

“Later, being debriefed on-air by Dan Rather, I recall making an effort

to avoid using the word ‘massacre.’ I referred to an ‘assault’ and an ‘attack.’ I reported what I saw; I said I hadn’t seen any bodies. Admittedly, I’ve never made a point of trying to contradict a colleague on the air; I’ve simply stuck to my own story, because I’ve believed it’s true.”

After 20 years, the story goes from absolutely, for sure, being a massacre in Tiananmen Square, to now being a massacre outside of the square in Beijing.

This new take has become the latest unified tale evolved to fit the uncooperative facts that came to light.

WikiLeaks publishes U.S. cables

There were, in fact, shots fired outside of the square, and there were hundreds killed according to Chinese government and medical sources.

But not all of those shots fired were from soldiers and not all of those killed were protesters. No photos, videos or any evidence exists of a massacre or of soldiers firing indiscriminately on civilians.

Why was force used by the Chinese army? After all, weren’t the students all nonviolent and unarmed?

If fact, there were plenty of photos supporting the Chinese government’s statements that soldiers were being attacked and killed and weapons were being taken by the so-called “peaceful” protesters. None of those photos were given prominence, if published at all, by mainstream media TV, radio or news publications.

Working toward regime change

Knowing that the Voice of America had made technical and staffing arrangements allowing broadcasts to be repeated frequently over Chinese airwaves, U.S. officials may have believed that giving an impression that a civil war had started in China would further the overall aims of regime change.

That would explain the unusual and very temporary coverage of violence by the students in the Washington Post on June 5, 1989 (from the archive at DC Public Library):

“An indication of what may lie ahead for China can be seen in the venom with which Beijing residents turned on a people’s army that had moved against the people. ... As columns of tanks and tens of thousands of soldiers approached Tiananmen, many troops were set on by angry mobs who screamed, ‘Fascists.’ Dozens of soldiers were pulled from trucks, severely beaten and left for dead.

“At an intersection west of the square, the body of a young soldier, who had been beaten to death, was stripped naked and hung from the side of a bus. Another soldier’s corpse was strung up at an intersection east of the square.”

Today, you won’t find any mention of that violence in the commemoration articles by the Post or any other corporate media, since now the unified “truth” is that the protesters were peaceful and unarmed.

Full report and photos at tinyurl.com/y2alk4yv [📺](#)

¡Celebrando Orgullo de Dos-Espíritus por miles de años!

Por M. Tiahui,
1 de junio de 2019

Tal vez ha escuchado hablar de “Dos Espíritus” con relación a lesbianas, gay, bisexual, transgénero u otros términos. Si no es indígena, tal vez esto le hace pensar que “Dos Espíritus” se refiere a gente indígena que es lesbiana, gay, bisexual o transgénero. Pero ser Dos Espíritus no necesariamente significa que alguien es lesbiana o gay, porque este término no se refiere a preferencia sexual.

“Dos Espíritus” es un término amplio pan-indio que describe a personas indígenas que tienen roles de género mixtos o no binarios. El término comenzó a ganar popularidad a fines de la década de 1980 y ahora se usa ampliamente en todo Canadá y EE. UU., y otros pueblos indígenas, como los Zapotecos en México, también reconocen el concepto.

Aunque el término es relativamente nuevo, el concepto ha existido para cientos de naciones indígenas durante miles de años. Algunos pueblos originarios por ejemplo, tienen hasta 4 y 5 géneros diferentes. Las personas de Dos Espíritus se consideran no binarias y tienen elementos sagrados femenino y masculino dentro de ellas.

Estos conceptos indígenas vinieron mucho antes y existen fuera de la terminología “LGBTQ” que ahora se usa a menudo. Una persona de Dos Espíritus puede que sea lesbiana o gay, pero ser lesbiana o gay no necesariamente hace que alguien sea Dos Espíritus.

La gente de Dos Espíritus ha existido durante miles de años. Muchas naciones tribales entendieron



que había personas que no formaban parte de un binario masculino / femenino. De hecho, algunas naciones creían que había múltiples géneros, no solo dos.

Tradicionalmente, en muchas naciones tribales, las personas de Dos Espíritus se consideraban en alta estima. Eran líderes, guerreras y sanadoras. A menudo desempeñaban un papel especial con los jóvenes, incluyendo la adopción de niños y el otorgamiento de nombres sagrados especiales para los bebés.

Cuando los europeos cristianos invadieron, sin embargo, despreciaron extremadamente a la gente de Dos Espíritus. Las personas de Dos Espíritus a menudo, eran asesinadas u obligadas a ocultar quiénes eran. Los misioneros cristianos hicieron todo lo posible por enseñar a los indígenas que ser Dos Espiritu era un pecado y diabólico, y las leyes y costumbres coloniales de los invasores prohibían la existencia de personas que no eran específicamente hombres o mujeres.

Por esta represión, más y más gente indígena se apartó de sus antiguos entendimientos, pero no toda. Se hizo más difícil para las personas de Dos Espíritus ser quienes eran, y en muchos lugares tenían que funcionar de manera clandestina.



Desafiando el desprecio

Para el siglo XX, algunas personas de Dos Espíritus abandonaron sus reservaciones para irse a las ciudades donde había comunidades de lesbianas y gays. Algunos fundaron grupos nativos urbanos, como Indios Americanos Gay (GAI, por sus siglas en inglés) en San Francisco, y muchos se enfrentaron también al racismo anti-indígena en las ciudades. A veces, los blancos incluso les decían que los nativos no podían ser lesbianas, homosexuales o Dos Espíritus debido a algunas extrañas opiniones estereotípicas de los no-nativos. Es difícil para las personas de Dos Espíritus sentirse completamente cómodas en cualquier lugar.

Pero más y más las personas de Dos Espíritus han hecho saber a sus familias y tribus quiénes son realmente. Si no son tratadas con respeto, desafían esto, especialmente cuando es la propia tradición tribal honrar a las personas de Dos Espíritus.

Durante los campamentos de Standing Rock en 2016-2017 para detener el oleoducto Dakota Access, las personas de Dos Espíritus se unieron y trabajaron en muchos de los proyectos. Las personas de Dos Espíritus en Standing Rock desempeñaron un papel espiritual muy

importante y trataron de hacer todo de una buena manera para brindar fortaleza a las miles de personas reunidas allí.

Con el liderazgo brindado por personas como Candi Brings Plenty, este fue un paso hacia delante muy importante en la lucha nativa. Cuando algunos nativos en el campamento no les aceptaban, otros desafiaban esto y les recordaban a todos sus culturas tradicionales.

Algunas veces personas no-nativas se refieren a sí mismas como Dos Espíritus. Esto es una falta de respeto, ya que es una apropiación de un concepto y término distintivamente indígena.

Durante este mes de Junio 2019, y durante todo el año, desfiles de Orgullo Gay y powwows celebrarán a la gente Dos Espíritus, desde Saskatoon hasta Bay Area (Bahía de California), hasta el Desfile Navajo Pride.

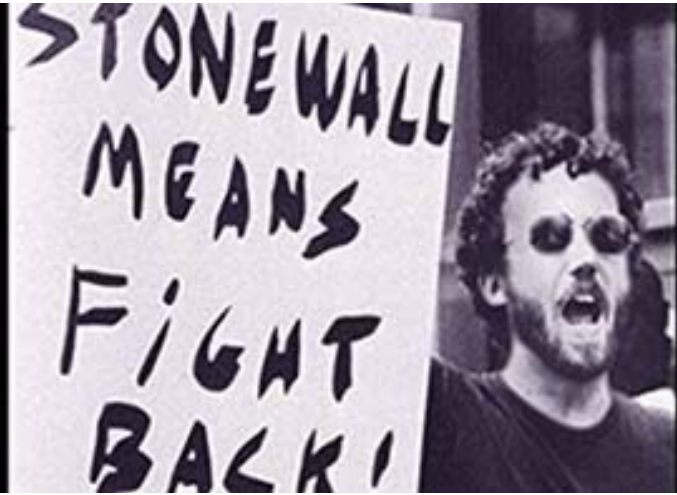
Honrar a la gente de Dos Espíritus es una parte importante de la Descolonización — eliminar las ideas nefastas de los colonos de nuestra mente y volver a los entendimientos más profundos que existían mucho antes del surgimiento del patriarcado, el capitalismo, el colonialismo y la invasión europea de las tierras indígenas. 🍀

Too little, 50 years too late Reclaim Pride slams NYPD's phony Stonewall apology

On June 6, New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill issued an apology for the police raid on a gay bar that set off the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion and sparked the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and Two Spirit (LGBTQ2S) liberation movement.

The Reclaim Pride Coalition, which is organizing a Queer Liberation March in New York on June 30 to protest the corporate-police takeover of the traditional Pride Parade, condemned the NYPD's “non-apology [that] ignores ongoing attack on LGBTQ+ and communities of color.”

Readers in the New York area are urged to join Struggle-La Lucha's contingent in the Queer Liberation March. Gather at Sheridan Square, on Seventh Avenue south of Christopher Street, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 30. The march will step off at 9:30 a.m. and go up Sixth Avenue to the Great Lawn in Central Park, where a rally will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



Bob McCubbin at a protest in the early 1970s. McCubbin, author of the historic book “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression,” first edition March 1976.

Following is the Reclaim Pride Coalition statement:

“We are not impressed by Commissioner O'Neill's empty apology, given under pressure during Pride Month. Where has this apology been for the last 50 years? The NYPD Vice Squad is still in business, busting sex workers and others, while its members run their own brothels. The NYPD is still arresting trans kids of color for walking down the street and arrested a transwoman

in the Bronx who was walking home from work, holding her in custody for 24 hours, in handcuffs! The NYPD has spent decades entrapping gay men. And the NYPD continues to strike fear in communities of color and other marginalized communities.

“Commissioner O'Neill had the nerve to say that this would never happen in 2019, completely ignoring that the NYPD continues to be an oppressive force in our communities even on the day of Pride. For decades, the Christopher Street Piers have been somewhat of a public safe space for LGBTQ+ youth of color, who are now being violently policed out of the space. Every year, cop watch activists patrol the piers during Pride because of the amount of violent policing the

youth who hang out there experience. Last year the NYPD completely cut off all access to this space, taking away a gay space of community from hundreds of mostly Black and Brown LGBTQ+ people. This is only one example of the continued oppression faced by marginalized members of the LGBTQ+ population and it happens on Pride Day!

“The Reclaim Pride Coalition is a group of individuals and organizations producing a massive Queer Liberation March people's protest for June 30 (reclaimpridenyc.org). No corporations and no uniformed police in our March. From our first meetings in the months prior to the 2018 Pride Parade, the Reclaim Pride Coalition has called for a comprehensive NYPD apology, including for their ongoing brutality against marginalized groups and for a systemic change in their operations.” 🍀

